Press Release
Embargoed until 00.01 on 9th November 2012

Adult Type 1 patients have distinct needs but are ‘lost’ in the diabetes epidemic. Call for specific commissioning to ensure specialist care

Type 1 diabetes comprises 10% of all the diabetes in England and Wales and is distinct from type 2 diabetes. Individuals with the condition have special needs which cannot be met without collaboration between specialist and primary care. Successful management of type 1 diabetes requires expert knowledge of insulin management by both the patient and the health care team supporting them. Complications of insulin therapy, requiring hospital admission, are much more common in type 1 diabetes and have been documented to be increasing. Death rates in those with type 1 diabetes are several fold higher than in the age matched population.

People with type 1 diabetes are lost within the system created by the present commissioning framework which creates obstacles to the referral of people with type 1 diabetes to the specialist team.

These barriers lead to those with type 1 diabetes being denied the support of a wider network of specialist nurses, dieticians, podiatrists and doctors all of whom specialise in the management of diabetes. It also impedes access of people with type 1 diabetes to novel treatments and technologies in the management of their condition such as insulin pumps and glucose monitoring systems.

ABCD is calling for recognition of the fact that adults with type 1 diabetes are a distinct group amongst those with diabetes. Services for these individuals need to be configured to recognise that fact and to allow a collaborative care pathway between the primary care and specialist teams.

The Association is calling for smarter commissioning with an end to the commissioning practices in NHS England which drive a wedge between primary care and specialist teams in the management of people with type 1 diabetes.
Contacts:

Dr Chris Walton MB BS FRCP
Consultant Physician, Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Hospitals Trust. Chair of ABCD
Email chris.walton@hey.nhs.uk

Dr Patrick Sharp MD FRCP
Consultant Physician, Southampton NHS Trust and Solent NHS Trust. General Secretary ABCD
Email patrick.sharp1@btinternet.com

Dr Peter Winocour MD FRCP
Consultant Physician, East and North Herts NHS Trust, and Honorary Senior Lecturer
Royal Free and University College Medical School, U.K.. Immediate Past Chairman of ABCD
Email peter.winocour@nhs.net

Professor Stephanie A Amiel, BSc, MD, FRCP
RD Lawrence Professor of Diabetic Medicine, King’s College London.
Email stephanie.amiel@kcl.ac.uk

Dr Jonathan Valabhji  MD FRCP
Consultant Physician and Lead Clinician for Diabetes, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.
Email jonathan.valabhji@imperial.nhs.uk

Dr Rustam Rea DM FRCP
Associate Clinical Director and Consultant in Diabetes & Endocrinology, Royal Derby Hospital.
Email rustam.rea@nhs.net

Notes to Editors:

• Approx. 250,00 people in the UK have Type 1 Diabetes (3)
• The Mortality Rate for Type 1 Diabetes is 2.6 times higher than the general Population (2)
• 3.9% of all people with Type 1 Diabetes in England require emergency hospital admission in a year due to insulin deficiency (1)
• Type 1 Diabetes costs the NHS £1.9 Billion pounds per year: Half of which is spent on the treatment of complications (4)

References:

1. National Diabetes Audit Executive Summary 2009-10
2. National Diabetes Audit Mortality Analysis 2007-8

The Association of British Clinical Diabetologists is the national organisation of Consultant Physicians in Britain who specialise in Diabetes Mellitus. Most are also Acute General Physicians, and many are also Specialists in Endocrinology and Lipid Metabolism.